

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-06 EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00 COME-00

PASS-00 /030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8212

INFO AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS TUNIS 6438

CASABLANCA FOR RFA

DEPT PASS OPIC

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EINV, EFIS, BEXP, TS

SUBJ: VISIT OF AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL: POULTRY
AND LIVESTOCK FEEDING

REF: TUNIS 6120

TO KENNETH MUELLER

AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL

20 EAST 46TH STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL: 212-628-2730

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTS OUR PREVIOUS
CABLE. REGARDING POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK FEEDING, ECONOMIC SEC-
TION AND USAID ARE STILL LOOKING INTO THESE SECTORS
AND EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO BRIEF THE ABC GROUP FUR-
THER ON ITS ARRIVAL IN TUNISIA.

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2. LIVESTOCK FEEDING: INCREASING BEEF PRODUCTION
FOR BOTH DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT IS AN
OBJECTIVE OF THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT. LIVESTOCK
FEEDING IS LOGICAL ELEMENT IN PROGRAM AND APPEARS,
COMMERCIALY, TO HAVE SOME PROMISE. HOWEVER, EF-
FORTS IN 1975 BY A US FIRM TO ORGANIZE A BEEF PRO-
DUCTION FACILITY BASED ON 60 PERCENT DOMESTIC SALES

AND 40 PERCENT EXPORT WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL. INCREASES IN FEED PRODUCTION ARE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IN ACHIEVING HIGHER LEVELS IN MEAT AND POULTRY OUTPUT. THE PRODUCTION OF GRAZING FORAGES MUST ALSO BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED. CONCENTRATES (MOSTLY BARLEY) ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. IMPORTS OF FOOD/FEEDGRAINS (THESE TWO ARE DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES IN TUNISIA) HAVE RISEN SHARPLY IN RECENT YEARS--AND IMPORT REQUIREMENT IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE. CORN IMPORTS WERE 64,000 MT AND SOYBEAN CAKE 15,000 MT IN 1976. FEEDGRAIN PRICES PAID TO FARMERS ARE CONTROLLED SINCE OFFICE OF CEREALS IS MONOPOLY BUYER. FARMERS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO OBTAIN FEED OF THE PROPER BLENDS FROM GOVERNMENT MILLS. CURRENTLY THERE IS SOME SMALL (200-HEAD) FEEDLOT-TYPE OPERATIONS BEING CARRIED ON AT OEP (NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SERVICE) FARMS. ALSO, THERE ARE SOME SMALL PRIVATE FARMERS FEEDING CATTLE--MOSTLY 10 TO 20 HEAD HOWEVER, THE MARKET IS FAIRLY THIN FOR QUALITY BEEF. QUALITY MEAT IS ONLY DEMANDED BY THE TOURIST HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS. THE PREMIER BEEF CATTLE COMPANY OF FOWLERVILLE, MICHIGAN, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONCLUDED THE STUDY MENTIONED ABOVE ON TUNISIAN BEEF PRODUCTION IN LATE 1974. IF ABC NOT ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH STUDY, YOU MAY WANT TO CONTACT MR. MANSOUR BEJAOUTI

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OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE (517-373-1054).

3. POULTRY: A NEW TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT ENTITY, SOCIETE TUNISIENNE D'AGRICULTURE (S.T.A.) UNDER THE SIRECTORSHIP OF MOHAMMED GHARIENI, HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN THE POULTRY FIELD. (ADDRESS IS 67 OUM KALTOUN, TELEPHONE 257.509) S.T.A. IS RECEIVING DOLS 2-3 MILLION IN AID FROM THE CANADIAN AID AGENCY (CIDA) UNDER 1974 AGREEMENT. PROGRAM ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY (CALL FOR BIDS LIMITED TO CANADIAN FIRMS IS IMMINENT) WILL SET UP S.T.A. IN INTEGRATED POULTRY OPERATION, A HATCHERY FOR BREEDER HENS (6.5 MILLION BROILERS AND 3 MILLION LAYERS ANNUALLY), FEEDMILL TO MEET S.T.A. REQUIREMENTS, AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSE--ALL IN TUNIS NORTHERN SUBURB OF EL HABRIBA. WHILE PREEMPTING MAJOR ROLE FOR GOT, IT APPEARS S.T.A. OPERATION WILL LEAVE ROOM FOR EXPANSION OF POULTRY ACTIVITIES IN PRIVATE SECTOR; SUGGEST THIS BE DISCUSSED WITH GHARIENI.

4. EMBASSY CONTACTED EZZEDDINE CHELBI, CHEF DE CABINET OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, TO COORDINATE

ABC VISIT. CHELBI STATED THAT MINISTRY HAD NOT YET
(SEPT 9) BEEN CONTACTED BY THE ABC IN REGARDS
TO YOUR VISIT, BUT WELCOMES YOUR ARRIVAL. HE SAID
THAT ABDELMAJID DLAMA WHOM WE HAVE ALSO CONTACTED, WOULD
AGAIN ACT AS COORDINATOR ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY.

5. I HOPE THE PARAGRAPHS 2-3 ABOVE, WHILE NOT COMPLETE,
PROVES USEFUL TO YOU. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AGAIN O/A OCTOBER 1. THE CONTROL OFFICER FOR YOUR TRIP
WILL BE MICHAEL GALLAGHER, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFI-
CER. THE RESOURES OF USAID ARE ALSO AT DISPOSAL OF
ABC MISSION AND DR. DOUGLAS BUTCHART, AGRICULTURAL DEVE-
LOPMENT OFFICER, WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH GALLAGHER TO
COORDINATE THEIR SUBSTANTIVE INPUT. BEST REGARDS.
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EDWARD W. MULCAHY
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

MULCAHY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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